Dear Lexie,

I'm sure by now you all are aware of the earthquake that hit our area on Tuesday afternoon. I understand that it was the worst that has ever been felt in this region in over a hundred years. I believe the latest report was that it eventually hit a 6.0 on the Richter scale. I don't know about you but I didn't need to know what it measured to realize that this event was of such a magnitude that it would not be soon forgotten.

...(read more below)

Open Our Eyes...

Out of all the natural disasters, an earthquake is probably the most dangerous. Not necessarily because of the amount of potential damage that it can cause, but because it gives very little, if any, warning that it is about to strike. When the earthquake struck on Tuesday, I was in the middle of a meeting with the pastoral staff, when all of a sudden the building began to shake. I must admit that it caught us all by surprise. There was no horn that sounded to warn us that it was on the way. The color of the sky hadn't changed to let us know that things were about to change dramatically. The earthquake simply hit and there was nothing we could do about it except take cover.

I'm sure that when the earthquake did hit, many of you, as did I, thought about the soon return of Jesus. Scripture records several signs that will occur as a warning that the Second Coming of Christ is near and the frequency of natural disasters such as earthquakes is one of them. But I
believe there is a greater significance to earthquakes being a sign of Christ's return rather than merely their increased frequency. The apostle Paul describes the nature of Jesus' return in 1 Thessalonians 5:2 as a "thief in the night." Now if you are a smart thief, you don't announce when you are about to strike. Rather, you simply show up when you think you can best catch your victim off guard. Now Jesus isn't trying to catch us off guard. If that were the case He wouldn't have left us with all these signs that His coming is near. But if we don't begin to open our eyes, many of us will be just as surprised when He returns, as we were when the quake hit on Tuesday.

As many were painfully reminded just a few months ago, no one truly knows the day or the hour that Christ will return. But just because we are not aware of the exact time of this great event does not mean that we can't be prepared for it. My prayer is that we will begin to truly open our eyes to the many signs of Jesus' return that God has placed in His Word, and that we will begin to make serious heartfelt preparation to meet the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, face to face. May God bless us all to this end.

Project Top Grade

At the Church Business Meeting on Tuesday, May 3, Sligo Church voted for Sligo Adventist School (SAS) and Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church to partner with the Commonweal Foundation and the Potomac Conference in donating funds to update Sligo School's physical facilities and improve the overall educational experience. As a result of the generous gifts of over a million dollars from Commonweal Foundation and the Potomac Conference, funds will be made available for a new HVAC, fire alarm system, fire doors, new windows and other needed repairs, plus provide professional development for teachers and special tutoring for students. Our part is to provide scholarships for needy students. SAS and Sligo Church will be expected to raise $350,000 to be placed in a special scholarship fund for students who otherwise would not be able to afford a Christian education.

We invite you to be a part of this investment in our children by placing your funds in the Giving Envelope, and marking it Project "TOP GRADE," which stands for Project Takoma Park: Guaranteeing Revitalized Adventist Education. For more information about this project, please call Principal Larry Rich at (240) 464-7054. Or give online here.

Pastor Charles A. Tapp
Senior Pastor
We hope you found this week's e-weekend newsletter helpful. If there is anything else you would like to see included, we appreciate your feedback. Just email us to sligo@sligochurch.org. We will continue to send this out on a weekly basis. Remember, you may choose to unsubscribe for any reason at any time, though, we hope you won't!

May God continue to richly bless you!

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